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United Nations

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Report on the 2004 regular session (10-28 May and 23 June 2004)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2004
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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

Summary

At its 2004 regular session, held from 10 to 28 May and on 23 June 2004, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 171 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from its previous sessions dating back to its 1998 session. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 115 applications for consultative status, of which 19 were recommended ad referendum and 50 were deferred for further consideration at a later date. The Committee did not recommend four organizations, closed consideration of three organizations and also closed consideration of one complaint by a Member State. The Committee had before it seven requests for reclassification of consultative status, which it recommended. In addition, it reviewed the quadrennial reports of 63 organizations.

The present report contains five draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 115 non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify seven non-governmental organizations;

(c) Note that the Committee had taken note of 42 quadrennial reports;

(d) Decide to close consideration of the application of three non-governmental organizations;

(e) Not grant consultative status to four non-governmental organizations;

(f) Note that the complaint submitted by a Member State against one organization has been closed.

By draft decision II, the Economic and Social Council would suspend the consultative status of Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" for one year.

By draft decision III, the Economic and Social Council would suspend the consultative status of the Transnational Radical Party for three years.

By draft decision IV, the Economic and Social Council would take note of the present report.

By draft decision V, the Economic and Social Council would decide that the 2005 regular session of the Committee should be held from 5 to 18 January 2005, that the resumed session of the Committee should be held from 9 to 20 May 2005 and would approve the provisional agenda for its 2005 session.

The report also brings to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following two decisions adopted by the Committee:

(a) The decision regarding the reinstatement of the status of the organization Reporters without Borders;

(b) The decision regarding the reinstatement of the status of the organization International Council of the Associations for Peace.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 95 non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

Action Canada for Population and Development

African Youth Network for Sustainable Development

Aging Research Center

Agricultural Missions Inc.

Airline Ambassadors International

Åland Islands Peace Institute

Alliance for Marriage

All India Shah Behram Baug Society (for Scientific and Educational Research)

Alulbayt Foundation

Arab Commission for Human Rights

Association tunisienne des femmes démocratiques

Bischofliches Hilfswerk Misereor (MISEREOR)

Catholic Medical Mission Board

Center for Victims of Torture

Centre beninois pour le développement des initiatives à la base

Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy

Citizens Movement for Environmental Justice

Child Rights Action Coalition

China Association for Science and Technology

China Care and Compassion Society

Chinese Society for Sustainable Development

Collectif des organisations des jeunes solidaires du Congo-Kinshasa

Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas

Community and Family Services International

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Corporation of Opportunity and Joint Action

EarthRights International

ECPAT International

Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief

Foundation for the Child and the Family

Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Fundacion Cultural Baur

Geriatric Care Foundation of Pakistan

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

Global Fund for Children

Goi Peace Foundation

Help Handicapped International

Indian Social Institute

India Vision Foundation

Institute for Interreligious Intercultural Dialogue

Institute for Multicultural Communications Cooperation and Development, Inc.

Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure (IDEAL)

International Children's Dream Foundation

International Federation of Multimedia Associations

International School Psychology Association

Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace

Ittijah: Union of Arab Community Based Organizations

Ius Primi Viri International Association

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice

Lawyers without Borders

Legal Advisory Office for Popular Organizations

Ligue Burundaise des droits de l'homme

Morality in Media, Inc.

National Coalition for Haitian Rights

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

NGO Health Committee, Inc.

NRO-Frauenforum

One World International

Pan European Forest Council

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Reach the Children, Inc.

Rehabilitation and Development Organization for the Landless

Relief International

Research Institute for Rehabilitation and Improvement for Women's Life

Réseau Malien des journalistes pour la lutte contre la corruption et la pauvreté

Saratoga Foundation

Sister to Sister International, Inc.

Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child

Thailand Environment Institute

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Universal Networking Digital Language Foundation

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

Vivat International

Volontari nel Mondo

War Veterans Committee

Women's Consortium of Nigeria

Women's Solidarity Association of Iran

Won-Buddhism Women's Association

World Organization for Education, Science and Development

World Vision Canada

World Youth Alliance

World Youth Foundation

Roster

Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities Corporation

Confederation of European Paper Industries

Dar Al Insan Association

FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society

Fondation Bertarelli

Institute for Traffic Care

International Association of Safety Professionals

International Electric Research Exchange

International Network of Street Papers

Mulchand and Parpati Thandhani Foundation

Planned Parenthood of Korea

World Self-Medication Association

World Trade Point Federation

(b) To reclassify the following three non-governmental organizations from special consultative status to general consultative status:

World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (FPSC)

World Movement of Mothers

(c) To reclassify the following four non-governmental organizations from the roster to special consultative status:

International Police Association

International Youth Hostel Federation

Life Institute

Minority Rights Group International

(d) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 38 organizations (years of reporting indicated in parentheses):

Association Internationale des Mouvements Familiaux de Formation Rurale (1998-2001)

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (1997-2000)

Canadian Council of Churches (1997-2000)

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (1997-2000)

Charitable Society for Social Welfare (2000-2003)

Colombian Commission of Jurists (1999-2002)

Conscience and Peace Tax International (1999-2002)

Development Alternatives With Women for a New Era (1999-2002)

Enfants du Monde — Droits de l'homme (1997-2000)

European Law Students' Association (1997-2000)

Family Planning Association of Turkey (1999-2002)

Handicap International (1999-2002)

Human Rights Watch (1997-2000)

Institute for Policy Studies (1997-2000)

Interfaith International (1998-2001)

International Association of Penal Law (2000-2003)

International Federation on Ageing (1999-2002)

International Federation Terre Des Hommes (1999-2002)

International League for Human Rights (1998-2001)

International Union of Economists (1999-2002)

Medecins sans Frontières (2000-2003)

National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (1999-2002)

National Women's Council of Catalonia (1999-2002)

Peace Action (1999-2002)

Service and Research Foundation of Asia on Family and Culture (1999-2002)

Society For the Psychological Study of Social Issues, The (1999-2002)

Society for Threatened Peoples (1994-1997)

South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (1999-2002)

Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (1999-2002)

Vrouwen Alliantie (1999-2002)

Widows Rights International (1999-2002)

World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows (1997-2000)

World Human Dimension (2000-2003)

World Movement of Mothers (1997-2000)

World Muslim Congress (1998-2001)

World Organization against Torture (1998-2001)

World Society for the Protection of Animals (1999-2002)

World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (1999-2002)

(e) To note that the Committee closed consideration of the request for consultative status made by the following three organizations:

Asian Bankers Association

African Hebrew Organization

Federation of Ijaw Communities

(f) To note that the Committee decides not to grant the request for consultative status made by the following four organizations:

Alliance Vietnam Liberté

Conscience Africaine — African Network of Grassroots Network

International Association Promoting Human Rights

Thirty-First December Women's Movement

(g) To note that the Committee closed the case of a complaint submitted by a Member State against the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Draft decision II
Suspension of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council decides to suspend the consultative status of Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru" for one year.

Draft decision III
Suspension of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council decides to suspend the consultative status of the Transnational Radical Party for three years.

Draft decision IV
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2004 regular session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2004 regular session.[1]

Draft decision V
Dates of the 2005 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and provisional agenda

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decides that the 2005 regular session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will be held from 5 to 18 January 2005 and that its resumed 2005 session will be held from 9 to 20 May 2005;

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 12* (E/2004/32).

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the 2005 session of the Committee as set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.
4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:
   (a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council;
   (b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council.
5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat.
6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives on non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;
   (b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group;
   (c) Other related matters.
7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295.
8. Consideration of special reports.
9. General voluntary fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.
10. Provisional agenda for the 2006 session of the Committee.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council.

Decision 2004/1
Reinstatement of consultative status of Reporters without Borders

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations takes note of and acknowledges the fact that the one year suspension of the organization Reporters without Borders is due to come to an end on 24 July 2004.

Decision 2004/2
Special report from the International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides, prior to the reinstatement of the consultative status of the organization International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents, to request a special report from the non-governmental organization on its activities during the three years of suspension, the fulfilment in this period of the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, the possible changes that have taken place in the organization and how the organization has overcome the reasons for this suspension.

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification

3. The Committee considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 8th, 10th to 15th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th and 31st meetings, on 10 to 15, 17 to 20, 24 to 27 May and 23 June 2004. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2004/R.2 and Add.1-16) as well as a compilation of applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2004/CRP.1).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

1. Requests for consultative status

Applications recommended

4. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to 20 organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

5. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee during its 2004 regular session:

Advocates for Youth

African Community Resource Center

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace

American Conservative Union

Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum

Association internationale de boxe educative

Association of Expelled (Displaced-Exiled) Persons

Australian Reproductive Health Alliance

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid

Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Fazaldad Human Rights Institute

Human Rights International Alliance

Indian Federation of United Nations Associations

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

International Association for Science Parks

International Centre for Peace Studies

International Crisis Group

International Justice Mission

Kashmiri American Council

Le Foyer Musulman, Association Internationale pour les droits de l'Homme

Maharashtra Foundation

Mountain Women Development Organization

National Abortion Federation

Women and Child Development Organization

Nonviolence International

Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation (Green Motherland)

Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses

Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad, Nagpur

Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights

World Association of Muslim Youth International Inc

World Council of Muslim Communities, Inc.

World Sindhi Institute

Morality in Media, Inc.

6. At its 11th meeting, on 17 May 2004, while joining in the consensus on granting special consultative status to the organization, the representatives of Germany and France expressed considerable reservations about it, which raised serious issues pertaining to freedom of expression and freedom of information.

China Care and Compassion Society

7. The representative of China commended the organization for its work and comprehensive answers and asked the Committee to recommend special consultative status to the organizations accordingly. While joining in the consensus on the granting of consultative status to the organization, the representative of France stated that he had questioned the organization to ensure that it was truly a non-governmental organization, that it was transparent and democratic, and that it operated in conformity with the principles stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. He noted that the organization assured the Committee that it would not engage in debates on United Nations premises focusing on "evil cults", taking into account the conceptual vagueness of this theme. He also said that his delegation will follow attentively the organization's activities in the future and its contribution to the work of the Council. The delegation of Germany supported the statement made by the French delegation.

Applications closed

African Hebrew Organization

8. At its 26th meeting, on 26 May, the Committee decided to close consideration of the African Hebrew Organization, an international organization founded to protect the interests of African Hebrews and to promote peace in Africa. The observer delegate of Nigeria objected to the organization and said that its very existence was questionable. The representative of Germany noted that the organization did exist since it responded to the correspondence addressed to it. In addition, he was of the view that research on topics such as those conducted by the organization should not be interpreted as objectionable. The representative of China stated that the Committee had made the decision to close consideration of this application since the host Government did not recognize the existence of the organization.

Federation of Ijaw Communities

9. At its 26th meeting, on 26 May, the Committee decided to close consideration of the Federation of Ijaw Communities. The observer delegate of Nigeria stated that the organization was basically ethnic and political in orientation, solely committed to fight for the cause of the Ijaws through all available means. He also said that the organization gave financial and material support to the restive youth wing of the organization, which had been largely responsible for the violence that had become endemic to that part of Nigeria. The representative of China stated that the

Committee had made its decision to close consideration of this application since the host Government did not recognize the existence of the organization.

Applications not recommended

Alliance Vietnam Liberté

10. At its 12th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee decided not to recommend consultative status for Alliance Vietnam Liberté, an international organization focusing on the dissemination of information on the situation of human rights in Viet Nam. Prior to its decision, the Committee heard a statement made by the observer delegate of Viet Nam, who stated that the organization had committed acts of sabotage in her country and was featured in a 1992 United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) list of criminal organizations.

Thirty-First December Women's Movement

11. At its 16th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee decided not to recommend consultative status for Thirty-First December Women's Movement, an international organization based in Ghana. At its 12th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee heard an intervention made by the observer delegate of Ghana, stating that the organization has been involved in activities against her Government. She said that although registered as a non-governmental organization, since its establishment, the organization had functioned as the women's wing and an integral part of the National Democratic Congress, one of the political parties in Ghana.

Conscience Africaine (African Network of Grassroots Democracy)

12. At its 23rd meeting, on 25 May, the Committee decided not to recommend consultative status of Conscience Africaine — African Network of Grassroots Democracy. The Committee heard a statement of the representative of Cameroon stating that the organization has never been registered in Cameroon and the registration document submitted by the organization was forged. She also pointed out that the organization had criticized her Government in its application.

International Association Promoting Human Rights

13. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May 2004, the Committee considered the application of International Association Promoting Human Rights, an organization which had been deferred since 2003.

14. The representative of Cuba said that representatives of the organization had lied and contradicted themselves in its answers to the Committee, and had tried to hide that it was created in Mexico by the Miami-based anti-Cuban terrorist organization "Cuban Democratic Directory" (CDD) to promote subversion in Cuba, in contravention of principles of sovereignty, self-determination and non-interference in States' internal affairs enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. He also highlighted the fact that despite the organization's declared aim that it is concerned with situations all over the world, a large section of its web site was devoted to Cuba focusing on its efforts against the Government. The representative of Cuba mentioned some indications and provided some documents on the close relationship between CDD and the organization, as well as on the nature of CDD. He also refuted the denial of the organization regarding its links with the "Cuban

American National Foundation" (CANF), another Miami-based organization, which he said was involved in terrorist activities against Cuba, such as the attacks against hotels and restaurants in Cuba in 1997, the assassination attempts against the Cuban President at the seventh Ibero-American Summit in 1997 and at the tenth Ibero-American Summit in 2000, for which four terrorists of Cuban origin were sentenced in Panama.

15. He also emphasized that Cuba viewed this organization as a political group working as an instrument and a front for activities undertaken by the United States of America and well known Miami-based anti-Cuban terrorist organizations and that, as such, its activities are aimed at denigrating and attempting to oust the constitutional government of a sovereign State, in violation of Council resolution 1996/31.

16. The concerns expressed by Cuba were supported by a number of delegations.

17. The representatives of the United States, Germany and France requested to delay the consideration of this organization to the following week in order to have more time to study the documentation circulated by the delegation of Cuba. But the representative of Cuba requested that the decision on the organization be taken during the meeting. The representative of the United States requested the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion to which the representative of Cuba objected. The motion for adjournment of the debate was supported by Germany and opposed by China. Pursuant to rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the motion of the representative of the United States to postpone the debate on the item under consideration was put to a vote.

18. The Committee rejected the proposal made by the United States of America by a roll call vote of 6 to 10, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania, United States of America

Against:

China, Cuba, Colombia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Turkey

19. The Committee then proceeded to vote on the proposal of the representative of Cuba to recommend not granting status to the organization.

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

20. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba, France, Germany, Romania and the United States.

21. The representative of Cuba said that the information provided by the organization through its application and response to the Committee showed that the organization carried out activities that were politically motivated against his country. Consequently he believed that the Committee should not grant consultative status to the organization.

22. The representative of France stated that, since additional documentation had just been circulated by the delegation of Cuba and was available only in Spanish, he

was not in a position to assess these texts. Since there was no time to ask instruction from his capital, he would abstain. He added that the proposal to delay consideration of the application to the following week would not have prevented the Committee from taking action on this organization before the end of the session.

23. The representative of Germany supported the comments made by the French delegation.

24. The representative of Romania stated that if the Committee had had more time to review the additional information provided by the delegation of Cuba, it might have helped its members to reach consensus on the matter.

25. The representative of the United States stressed that in order to translate and review the information provided in the documents circulated by the delegation of Cuba, additional time was needed. He expressed regret at the turn of events and stated that he believed that there was a prejudice against the organization.

26. The proposal made by Cuba was carried by a roll call vote of 12 to 1, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania

2. Requests for reclassification

27. At previous sessions, the Committee had decided to defer the applications for reclassification of International Youth Hostel Federation and Minority Rights Group International, pending responses to questions posed by the Committee. At its 17th meeting, on 20 May, the Committee reclassified the status of the two organizations from roster to special (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)).

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

28. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, new applications for consultative status, contained in documents E/C.2/2004/R.2/Add.1-16 at its 2nd to 8th, 15th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th and 28th meetings, on 10 to 15, 17 to 20, and 24 to 27 May 2004.

I. New applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

29. The Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 95 organizations, that had submitted new applications (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

30. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the applications of the following 17 organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee at its 2004 regular session or due to lack of time:

Action contre la faim

AIDS Action

Angel Foundation

Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism

Federation of American Scientists

Feminists for Life of America

Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Community

International Development Enterprises (India)

New Millennium Peace Foundation

Sahara for Life Trust

Sign of Hope

Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar

Social Alert

Tarumitra

Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Institute

Vikas Samiti

Watson Institute for International Studies

Applications recommended ad referendum

31. The Committee decided to recommend granting consultative status to the following 19 organizations ad referendum, due to the fact that a number of documents were not issued in the six official languages of the United Nations by the scheduled end of the session:

Academy of Mining Sciences

Accademia Internazionale di Arte Moderna

Association for Sustainable Community Development

"Basta Ya" Citizen's Initiative

Bird Life International

CESVI

Citizens Alliance for Consumer Protection of Korea

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility

Droit à l'énergie — SOS Futur

DrugScope

Earth Society Foundation

Eastern African Sub-Regional Support! Initiative for the Advancement of Women

Federation of Balkan Turks and Association for Emigrees

Finnish Youth Co-operation Alliance

Indigenous Peoples Survival Foundation

Odhikar

Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc.

Shinji Shumeikai

StarSpirit International, Inc.

32. Several members of the Committee, including the representatives of Turkey, the Sudan, India, Cuba, France and Colombia, expressed regret that some of the documents had not been issued on time, impeding the work of the Committee. They addressed a formal request to the Secretariat that documentation should be made available on time at future sessions.

33. At its 31st meeting, on 23 June 2004, the Committee met to formalize its decisions taken ad referendum at its 2004 regular session. The meeting to formalize the decisions had been postponed due to the fact that a number of documents had not been issued in the six official languages of the United Nations as of 28 May. In that regard, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it grant consultative status to the 19 organizations listed in paragraph 31 above, which had been recommended ad referendum at the main part of its 2004 regular session.

Application closed

34. The Committee decided to close the request of consultative status submitted by Asian Bankers Association on the grounds that it did not meet the criteria envisaged in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

2. New requests for reclassification

35. At its 3rd, 8th and 16th meetings, on 11, 13 and 19 May 2004, the Committee decided to recommend the reclassification of two organizations from roster to special status and three organizations from special to general consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)).

III. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special status with the Economic and Social Council

A. Quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

36. The Committee considered quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions under item 4 of its agenda at its 25th to 30th meetings held from 26 to 28 May 2004. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and consultative status with the Council on their activities during the periods from 1994 to 1997, from 1995 to 1998 and from 1996 to 1999, which have been deferred from previous sessions of the Committee (E/C.2/2004/CRP.2). The Committee took note of quadrennial reports of 7 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)).

37. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following organizations pending response from the organizations to questions posed by the Committee:

Centrist Democrat International (formerly Christian Democratic International)

International Press Institute

International Islamic Relief Organization

International Association for Religious Freedom

38. The Committee also decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial report of the following organization:

Transnational Radical Party

B. New quadrennial reports

39. The Committee considered new quadrennial reports under item 4 of its agenda at its 16th to 18th, 21st and 25th to 30th meetings on 19 and 20, 24 and 26 to 28 May 2004. It had before it memorandums of the Secretary-General containing new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2004/2 and Add.1-7). The Committee took note of a total of 38 quadrennial reports of 38 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)).

40. The Committee decided to take note of the quadrennial reports of the following 15 organizations ad referendum, owing to the fact that a number of documents were not issued in the six official languages:

Brothers of Charity (1999-2002)

China Disabled Person's Federation (1998-2001)

Chinese Immigrants Services, Inc. (1998-2001)

Croatian World Congress (1998-2001)

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung — German Foundation for World Population (1999-2002)

General Confederation of Trade Unions (1998-2001)

International Fellowship of Reconciliation (1999-2002)

International Movement ATD Fourth World (1999-2002)

International Union of Psychological Science (1998-2001)

Ipas (1998-2001)

Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (1998-2001)

Nigerian Centre for Research and Documentation (1999-2002)

Parliamentarians for Global Action (1998-2001)

Shimin Gaikou Centre (Citizens' Diplomatic Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) (1999-2002)

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (1998-2001)

41. At its 31st meeting, on 23 June, the Committee decided to take note of the quadrennial reports of the following four organizations, which was taken note of ad referendum at the main part of its 2004 session:

Association for Progressive Communications (1995-1998)

International Islamic Relief Organization (1995-1998)

New Human Rights (1995-1998)

Organization for the Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America (1998-2001)

42. The Committee could not take action on 16 quadrennial reports taken note of ad referendum at the main part of its 2004 session, owing to the fact that the reports had still not been issued by the Secretariat in the official languages of the Organization. Several members of the Committee expressed their disappointment that the documents have not been issued even though the six weeks required for document processing had elapsed. They requested that the Chair, through a letter to the relevant department of the Secretariat at the highest possible level, demand an explanation on this issue and ask for necessary measures to be taken in order to avoid the repetition of a similar situation, which hampers the work of the Committee. The Chair agreed to send such a letter to the Secretariat.

43. The representative of Germany said that although his delegation did not object to taking note of the quadrennial report of the Organization for the Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, he expressed serious concern regarding the statements made by the organization at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance in Durban in 2001, describing Zionism as a form of racism. He said that as the General Assembly resolution in that regard had been repealed in 1991, such statements must be avoided. He added that his delegation would watch the future activities of this non-governmental organization. The representative of France supported the statement made by Germany.

44. The representatives of Cuba and the Sudan also took the floor and said that the Committee did not penalize organizations whose aims and activities were not in contradiction with resolution 1996/31, even if they promoted concepts and ideas that did not have intergovernmental approval.

45. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial report of the following organization pending a response to the questions posed by the Committee on its report:

International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University

IV. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

46. At its 23rd, 25th and 26th meetings, on 25 and 26 May 2004, the Committee considered the following issue under agenda item 5 of its agenda.

New developments and initiatives

47. The Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section informed the Committee of the new post at the P-5 level established in the Section, which was to be filled before the opening of the next General Assembly. She also updated the Committee on a number of initiatives undertaken by the Section. Two surveys had been carried out on NGOs on the Roster as well as on the fulfilment of the quadrennial reporting obligation of NGOs with special and general consultative status.

48. Another survey has been conducted by the Section to highlight the important contribution of NGOs in consultative status in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. A detailed questionnaire was sent to the 2,418 NGOs in consultative status. Additionally, the questionnaire sought further information on the work of the organizations in the field of human rights, peace and security. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section had received 158 responses from organizations operating in 45 countries. In that regard, the Section intended to put out a publication on civil society success stories emerging from their work on the Millennium Development Goals.

Paperless Committee

49. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section informed the members of the Committee that the "Paperless Committee" was adopted as a normal mode of operation by the Committee. The realization of the "Paperless Committee", a multifunctional electronic meeting record management and archiving system, had been made possible by the generous contribution of the World Job and Food Bank, an organization in special consultative status from Canada, which had donated 30 laptops, a scanner and a server to the United Nations in order to facilitate the work of the Committee.

50. The Committee was reminded that this Committee was the first United Nations organ to fully use office automation and information technology in the conduct of its

official work in an effort to eliminate the large volume of paper documentation that is normally required.

51. Members of the Committee expressed their gratitude to the Organization and to the Secretariat. They said the "Paperless Committee" should be an example for the rest of the United Nations system.

V. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and decision 1995/304

A. Working group established to review some aspects of the work of the Committee

52. At its 29th meeting on 28 May 2004, Mr. Hakan Tekin (Turkey), coordinator of the informal working group of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, reported before the Committee on the work of the working group. The working group was able to review most of the items of its agenda as follows.

Meeting dates of the next session of the Committee

53. The working group had looked into several proposals put forward by the Secretariat in its efforts to hold the regular and resumed sessions in the same calendar year, with a view to presenting a consolidated report of the Committee to the Economic and Social Council session to be held in July 2004. Owing to the concerns expressed by a number of delegations regarding proposed dates, the working group needed more time to come to a decision on the issue.

Format of the report

54. Draft guidelines on the format and the preparation of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had been circulated to the members of the working group, but so far no comments or proposals had been received on the text.

Failure in quadrennial reporting

55. The coordinator of the working group informed the Committee that letters had been sent to NGOs that had not yet submitted their quadrennial reports to remind them of their responsibility in that regard. He underscored that the quadrennial reports were a useful tool to monitor the large number of NGOs in special and general status. A survey carried out by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and distributed to the Committee members revealed that there were 59 NGOs that owed two quadrennial reports. Mr. Tekin said that although that number could be seen as rather small, taking into account the fact that there were approximately 2,000 NGOs in special and general status, some NGOs which had not fulfilled their reporting obligation had not been reflected in this survey. He called on the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to revise the list so that the working group

could consider taking appropriate action in this regard. During the presentation of the above-mentioned survey earlier in the session, the representative of Cuba had said that the list was not exhaustive, as at least one case was not mentioned in the survey and had underscored the need to take appropriate measures with regard to organizations that failed to submit their quadrennial reports despite the reminders sent by the Secretariat.

Monitoring of non-governmental organizations with roster status

56. A short letter accompanied by a questionnaire had been sent to the 477 NGOs presently on the Roster to encourage them to provide updated information on their organizations. Responses had been received from 172 organizations and another survey prepared by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section on this issue had also been distributed to the Committee members.

Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

57. Mr. Tekin informed the Committee that the working group had agreed that it would not be appropriate to give priority to the 737 NGOs accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development by granting them consultative status with the Council for their participation in the follow-up to the Summit, as this would be unfair to many other NGOs that had been waiting for their applications to be considered. These NGOs should also follow the regular application process.

Chairmanship of the working group

58. Mr. Tekin informed the Committee that he would soon be completing his tenure in New York and would be leaving the chairmanship of the working group as of 27 May 2004.

B. Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

59. No organization placed in that category remained in the programme of work of the Committee.

C. Other related matters

New applications for consultative status

1. Non-governmental organizations speaking before the 2004 session of the Economic and Social Council

60. At its 30th meeting, on 28 May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations approved the request of 22 organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level, coordination and general segment of its forthcoming 2004 session (E/C.2/2004/CRP.5). These organizations are the following:

High-level segment

NGO Forum Coalition, NGO Civil Society Forum

Association Mauritanienne pour le Bien-Être et le Secours de l'Enfant et de la Mère (Special 2002)

NGO Forum Coalition, Kelowna, B.C.

African Action on AIDS (Special 2003)

All India Women's Education Fund Association (Special 1999)

Center for International Rehabilitation (Special 2004)

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) (General 2002)

Friends' Society in Social Service (Special 2002)

Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (Special 2001)

Global Action of Aging (Special 2003)

Institute of International Social Development (Special 2000)

International Movement ATD Fourth World (General 1991)

International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization (Special 1995)

International Tunneling Association (Special 1987)

Legion of Good Will (General 1999)

Peace Boat (Special 2002)

Rotary International (General 1993)

World Federation of United Nations Associations (General 1947)

Coordination segment

Association Tunisienne des Mères (General 2001)

Black Sea University Foundation (Special 1999)

Femmes Afrique Solidarité (Special 2000)

Oasis Open City Foundation (Special 2003)

61. On 21 May, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section briefed the Committee about the contributions of 22 NGOs and NGO coalitions to the high-level and coordination segments of the Council on the theme of resource mobilization for the financing of the least developed countries. She pointed out that the views expressed by the NGOs in their contribution may be taken into consideration by delegations in the elaboration of the ministerial declaration which will be adopted at the conclusion of the high-level segment.

2. Briefing on the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations

62. At its 24th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee was briefed on the conclusions of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations by Mr. John Clark, Project Director of the Panel. The Panel had been established by the Secretary-General in February 2003 to address the participation of civil society in the work of the United Nations.

63. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the Panel had presented a draft report to the Secretary-General, who might present the finalized report to Member States by the end of June 2004. He said that the Panel was of the view that the General Assembly, rather than the Economic and Social Council, should be the formal entry point between the United Nations and civil society, with a view to giving civil society more opportunities to make contributions to the various committees of the Assembly and its special sessions. The Panel noted that the accreditation process was seen often as a political discussion. The proposed reforms were designed to make the process less political and more merit based. The Panel was of the view that a technical analysis of the applications could be carried out first by the Secretariat on the merits of non-governmental organizations, instead of an intergovernmental discussion. A committee of the General Assembly should set the criteria for the accreditation process and monitor the secretariat closely to make sure that it adheres to those criteria. The General Committee of the General Assembly could be the organ that would make those decisions. The Secretariat would submit a list to the committee of all applications with its own advice and the committee would then decide whether or not to ratify the recommendations. Only in the cases of disagreement with the Secretariat's advice would necessitate an intergovernmental discussion. Thus, time spent on the review of applications would be greatly reduced which would be cost effective.

64. He explained that the Panel had focused on four priorities. The first issue was to link the local and the global. The United Nations had two roles, namely establishing global policies and running the operative side of the Organization. The gap between these two roles hampered work on both sides. The second priority area was to realize the full power of multi-stakeholder partnerships. A third issue was the need for the United Nations to put the challenges rather than the organization itself at the centre of its attention. A fourth priority was tackling the increasing democracy deficit in global governance. There was a feeling that decisions were increasingly taken at international forums without democratic influence.

65. In the ensuing dialogue, while representatives of the United States and Germany lauded the efforts of the Panel, representatives of Colombia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China and Cuba regretted the fact that the Panel, while working on the report, had not consulted the Committee, which has a rich experience in this field. Emphasizing the intergovernmental character of the United Nations, they expressed concern that transparency might be lost if the Panel's proposals are to be followed. Mr. Clark responded that several Governments had been consulted in the process, including those of some members of the Committee. Some Committee members criticized the selective approach in this process. Mr. Clark replied that the contacts selected were fairly widespread, taking into account the fact that the Panel members were not working full time on this issue. Responding to questions regarding the future role of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee as envisaged by the Panel, Mr. Clark said that the Panel

had been asked for advice and that it did indeed envisage the winding down of the Committee, which the Panel regarded as an "incredibly huge sledgehammer to crack a very small nut". However, in response to concerns expressed by several members of the Committee, he stressed that the Panel did not intend to turn the process of accreditation to a purely technical decision of the Secretariat. Mr. Clark strongly acknowledged the United Nations as an intergovernmental body and stated that the arrangement envisaged by the Panel was meant only to enable the United Nations to further benefit from the participation of civil society, although decisions in this regard must remain the prerogative of the Governments of Member States.

3. Report on the follow-up of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights

66. At the 24th meeting, on 25 May, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section informed the Committee that 230 NGOs had been accredited to the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights in 2004. Overall, NGOs submitted 468 individual statements and 55 joint statements. As in previous years, the Non-Governmental Organizations Liaison Office had ensured that procedures and practices were respected by all NGOs participating in the session. The Liaison Office also monitored and reported on some 400 parallel events organized by NGOs in the margins of the Commission. Weekly meetings between the expanded Bureau and the NGOs continued to serve the purpose of keeping NGOs informed of procedures and changes.

4. Matters pertaining to reinstatement of consultative status of non-governmental organizations whose consultative status have been suspended

67. At its 28th meeting, on 27 May, the Committee considered the criteria for reinstatement of consultative status in cases where it had been suspended by the Economic and Social Council. In that regard, the Committee was informed that two organizations, Reporters without Borders, suspended for one year in 2003, and the International Council of the Associations for Peace, suspended for three years in 2000, had requested through the Secretariat to have their consultative status reinstated. The Committee also had before it two letters from the Office of Legal Affairs, one dated 21 May 2003, received at the request of the Committee, and the other dated 18 May 2004, received at the request of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section. The Office of Legal Affairs, in these letters, pointed out that Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 did not set out any procedures to be taken for the reinstatement of consultative status following suspension, unlike in cases of withdrawal; accordingly the NGO concerned should automatically be reinstated upon the expiration of the suspension period.

68. There was no agreement in the Committee on how to proceed on the above-mentioned NGOs. A number of Committee members were of the view that the reinstatement of consultative status of an NGO could not take place without a decision by the Committee, while some other members maintained that reinstatement should be automatic upon the completion of the term of suspension.

69. The representative of Cuba introduced two draft decisions, one on the reinstatement of consultative status of Reporters without Borders and one requesting a special report from the International Council of the Associations for Peace.

Reinstatement of consultative status of Reporters without Borders

70. By the draft decision on Reporters without Borders, the Committee would take note and acknowledge that the one year suspension of the organization was due to finish on 24 July 2004, would invite the NGO to inform the Committee about its commitment to Council resolution 1996/31 during the period of its suspension, as well as the activities carried out and the possible changes that might have taken place in the organization during that period, and would decide to delay any action until receiving this reply.

71. In introducing the draft decision at the 28th meeting, on 27 May, the representative of Cuba stated that it was intended to enable the Committee to consider information provided by the organization on whether any changes in the organization had taken place during the period of its suspension. Referring to a previous case, he pointed out that another organization, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, had been suspended in 1994 and that the Committee, after considering the request for its reinstatement, in 1998, had decided that it had to submit a new application.

72. The representative of France said that the case of the International Lesbian and Gay Association had not set a precedent, as the organization had been suspended in 1994, before the adoption of Council resolution 1996/31. He also referred to the two letters from the Office of Legal Affairs on the reinstatement of status of suspended NGOs. Imposing additional steps to be taken by Reporters without Borders prior to the reinstatement of its status would, de facto, prolong its suspension, and would be unfair to the NGO. It would also breach the principle of automaticity contained in resolution 1996/31. He introduced two amendments to the Cuban draft decision on the NGO, one to the effect that the Council would "note and acknowledge" the ending of the suspension, and the other to delete the remaining part of the draft after this acknowledgement.

73. A number of members of the Committee, including the Sudan and China, underlining that their comments were strictly focusing on legal aspect of the matter, did not agree with the opinion provided by the Office of Legal Affairs. The representatives of Chile, Germany, Romania and the United States supported the representative of France.

74. The first amendment of France was adopted without a vote. The second amendment of France was adopted by a roll-call vote of 11 to 6, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, India, Peru, Romania, Turkey, United States of America

Against:

China, Cuba, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstentions:

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Senegal

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

75. The representatives of Turkey, Germany, Peru, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon made statements supporting the proposal of the French representative that

the consultative status of the organization should be reinstated automatically upon the termination of its suspension period, concurring with the opinion of the Office of Legal Affairs.

76. The representatives of Cuba, the Sudan, Pakistan and the Russian Federation stated that since Council resolution 1996/31 did not provide clear procedures on reinstatement of status after suspension and the Committee, which would enable it to take an informed decision, they needed to have assurance from the organization that it remained committed to its responsibilities as stipulated under the resolution.

77. The draft decision, as orally amended, was then put to a vote as a whole on the request made by the representative of Cuba. The draft read as follows:

> "The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations takes note and acknowledges the fact that the one year suspension of the organization Reporters without Borders is due to finish on 24 July 2004."

78. The draft decision was carried by a roll-call vote of 13 to 5, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, India, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, United States of America

Against:

China, Cuba, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Zimbabwe

Abstentions:

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Statements in explanation of vote after the vote

79. The representative of the Sudan said that as the amended draft decision stated the obvious she had voted in favour.

80. The representative of Cuba stated that before reinstating the consultative status of an organization it is important to have information on its activities during the period of its suspension and the possible changes that might have taken place in the organization, as well as a reiteration of its commitment to resolution 1996/31. He said this information was particularly necessary in the case of Reporters without Borders, which had even failed to submit a quadrennial report. He also mentioned some serious actions carried out by the NGO during its suspension period, including interrupting the work of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, distribution of offensive documents against the Commission and the Economic and Social Council, launching of an illegal "Pirate Radio Station" in Geneva to protest its exclusion from the World Summit on the Information Society, awarding the United Nations a "Grand Prize for Hypocrisy" and inappropriate use of a famous photo of Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

81. The representative of China stated that the adoption of the decision by the Committee constituted another precedent for dealing with the reinstatement of suspended NGOs and that the Committee should take certain procedures before reinstating suspended organizations.

82. The representative of France underlined that the Cuban representative had left no doubt, if any, on the political agenda of Cuba regarding this item and that the Committee had been wise to pronounce itself on legal basis.

Special report from the International Council of the Associations for Peace

83. At the same meeting, the Committee then considered the request of reinstatement of status of the International Council of the Associations for Peace.

84. A draft decision introduced by Cuba read as follows:

> "The Committee decides, prior to the reinstatement of the consultative status of the organization International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents, to request a special report of the non-governmental organization on its activities during the 3 years of its suspension, the fulfilment in this period of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, the possible changes taken place in the organization and how the organization overcame the reasons for this suspension."

85. The representative of the United States said that there was no consensus on this draft.

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

86. The representative of Cuba stated that the members of this organization were linked to individuals aimed at overthrowing the constitutionally elected Government of Cuba and that, therefore, it was appropriate to request that it provide a special report on its activities during the three years of its suspension.

87. The representative of Turkey, supported by the representatives of the United States and Chile, said that since, from a legalistic point of view, there was no difference between the cases of Reporters without Borders and the International Council according to Council resolution 1996/31 and the opinion of the Legal Office, reinstatement should be automatic upon the expiration of the suspension period. Therefore, as in the previous case, the representative said that he would vote against this draft. The representative of Turkey also stated that as the concerns expressed by Cuba regarding this NGO were serious, he recommended that the delegation of Cuba bring them to the attention of the Committee under the appropriate agenda item, but emphasized that, from a purely legal point of view, this should not hamper the reinstatement of status at this point.

88. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran affirmed that there was no reference of automaticity of reinstatement in Council resolution 1996/31.

89. The representative of the Sudan said that her position was consistent with the one she had previously expressed on the case of Reporters without Borders.

90. The draft decision was adopted by a recorded roll-call vote of 10 to 3, with 6 abstentions.

In favour:

China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Against:

Chile, Turkey, United States of America

Abstentions:

Cameroon, France, Germany, India, Peru, Romania

Statement in explanation of vote after the vote

91. The representative of China stated that the adoption of the decision by the Committee reinforced how important it was that the Committee adopt certain procedures before the reinstatement of suspended NGOs.

5. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status registered under a new name

92. At its 29th meeting, on 28 May, the Committee took note of the situation of Cebemo, an organization in consultative status since 1997, which had merged with three other NGOs under the name Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid. Its application was considered among the deferred applications of consultative status.

6. Non-governmental organizations requesting withdrawal of status

93. At its 29th meeting, on 28 May 2004, the Committee took note of the request of for withdrawal of status of the following two NGOs and agreed to remove them from the list:

International Committee for European Security and Cooperation (Special, 1979). The organization informed the Secretariat of its dissolution

World Conservation Monitoring Center (Roster, 1996). The organization informed the Secretariat that, as of 2000, it had become an office of the United Nations Environment Programme

7. Sending letters of recognition to non-governmental organizations

94. At its 29th meeting, on 28 May, the Secretariat brought to the attention of the Committee the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Rotary International, an international organization in general consultative status since 1993, and reminded the Committee that, in 1998, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section had sent 33 letters of recognition to NGOs that had been in existence for 50 years. While some members of the Committee believed that it could be appropriate to recognize the laudable work of long-established NGOs, a number of delegations questioned such a need and pointed out that newer NGOs from developing countries, operating under difficult conditions, should also be recognized. The Committee decided to refer the issue of sending letters of appreciation to such NGOs to the attention of the informal working group.

VI. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295

95. At its 29th meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered, under agenda item 6, the requests for consultative status of organizations placed on the Roster for the purpose of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see E/2004/CRP.4). The Committee, in its deliberations, proceeded in accordance with Council decision 2001/295, whereby the Council had decided that NGOs referred to

in its decision 1993/220 that wished to expand their participation in other fields of the Council would be considered by the Committee, and that the Committee would do so as expeditiously as possible under an item of its agenda, following the rules and provisions stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

96. The Committee decided to defer consideration of Environmental Protection Society owing to the fact that, despite several attempts, the Secretariat had not yet been able to contact the organization, which needs to respond to questions posed by the Committee.

VII. Consideration of special reports and complaints by Member States

97. The Committee considered agenda item 8 at its 9th, 19th and 20th meetings, on 14, 21 and 22 May 2004. It had before it documents E/C.2/2003/3 and Add.1, E/C.2/2002/3 and Add. 1 and 2 and E/C.2/2001/3/Add.2.

A. Consideration of special reports

Transnational Radical Party

98. At its 2002 regular session, the Committee was informed that Viet Nam had lodged a complaint through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations against the Transnational Radical Party, for providing accreditation to the Montagnard Foundation, Inc., which allowed Mr. Kok Ksor, its representative, to speak at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The representative of Viet Nam stated that the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. was a terrorist group and an arm of a larger terrorist organization known as Le Front Unifié pour la Liberation de Races Opprimées (FULRO). The representative of Viet Nam underlined that the Transnational Radical Party should put an end to such abuse of its consultative status and requested that the organization be made to explain its improper actions. The Committee then decided to request the Transnational Radical Party to prepare a special report on its activities and the incident that gave rise to the complaint.

99. At the resumed session of the Committee in 2002, the representative of Viet Nam stated that he was not satisfied with the special report submitted by the NGO and requested that it extend an official apology and a commitment in writing not to accredit members of the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. to any Council meeting in the future. The organization was requested by the Committee to submit a new supplementary report for consideration by the Committee at its 2003 regular session.

100. At its 2003 regular session, the representative of Viet Nam expressed its dissatisfaction with the new supplementary report submitted by the NGO and requested that it cease to give its platform to Mr. Ksor and present an official apology in a written form to the Government of Viet Nam, explaining the reasons for its behaviour (see E/2003/32/Part II). The Committee decided to ask the Transnational Radical Party to further clarify its position on the accusations made by the representative of Viet Nam in a reply to be considered at the 2003 resumed session of the Committee.

101. At its 2003 resumed session, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the reply provided by the organization to its regular session in 2004.

102. At its 9th and 20th meetings, on 14 and 21 May, the observer for Viet Nam reaffirmed that Mr. Kok Ksor, whom the Transnational Radical Party continued to accredit to various meetings of the Council, was a terrorist closely affiliated to the Montagnard Foundation, Inc., which was an organization engaged in terrorist and separatist activities aimed at creating an independent state of Degar in Viet Nam. The representative of Viet Nam said that since his request to the Transnational Radical Party to correct the situation had not been met, he would request that the Committee suspend the consultative status of the organization for three years, as stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

103. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Cuba, the Sudan, China, Zimbabwe, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and the Russian Federation emphasized that an accredited NGO could not abuse its status by providing a platform for organizations aimed at undermining the territorial integrity of a Member State. They supported the proposal of suspension of the consultative status of the organization.

104. The delegation of Germany, supported by the delegations of France, Chile, Romania and the United States, stated that there was no new element brought by the representative of Viet Nam. He underlined that the Committee was not the proper forum to determine whether the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. was a terrorist organization or if Mr. Ksor was a terrorist. Such a debate was the responsibility of the Security Council. He said that there was no breach of rule to examine and will object to the suspension of the status of the Transnational Radical Party.

105. The representative of China proposed to take action on the suspension of status of the organization.

106. The representative of Germany asked to defer consideration of this proposal to the following week since it was the first time that a proposal of suspension was brought before the Committee. There was no consensus on this proposal. Pursuant to rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the proposal of Germany to suspend the debate was put to a vote.

107. The proposal was rejected by a recorded roll-call vote of 8 to 9, with 2 abstentions.

In favour:

Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Peru, Romania, Turkey, United States of America

Against:

China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstentions:

Senegal, Cameroon

108. The Committee then proceeded to consider the proposal of China to suspend the consultative status of the Transnational Radical Party for three years.

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

109. The representative of Germany, speaking also on behalf of France, emphasized that the Committee was not the appropriate forum in determining whether an organization was terrorist or not. He also pointed out the fact that Mr. Ksor's organization was neither on the Security Council's nor on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations. The representatives of Chile and the United States supported the statements of Germany and France.

110. The Committee then proceeded to a recorded roll-call vote on the proposal to suspend the consultative status of the Transnational Radical Party for three years. The proposal was carried by a vote of 9 to 8 with 2 abstentions.

In favour:

Cuba, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Iran (Islamic Republic of), India, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Against:

Chile, Cameroon, France, Germany, Peru, Romania, Turkey, United States of America

Abstentions:

Senegal, Colombia

111. The observer for Italy was of the view that the Transnational Radical Party had not violated the principles of Council resolution 1996/31. It had followed the required accreditation procedure as explained in the letter addressed by the Chairman of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights to the Ambassador of Viet Nam in Geneva. He expressed regret that the Committee had taken such a decision on unsubstantiated accusations, which will damage credibility of the Committee.

Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"

112. At its 2003 regular session, the representative of the United States had lodged a complaint before the Committee against the organization, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", an international organization with special consultative status with the Council. He stated that, during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, two representatives of the organization had rushed towards the United States delegation carrying a large cylindrical object. While facing the camera of a Cuban television crew, these two individuals had unfurled a banner, on which were written four letters "PACE", and had chanted anti-American slogans. The United States representative said that this behaviour constituted an abuse of the organization's status with the Economic and Social Council and that its conduct consisted of politically motivated acts taken against a Member State of the United Nations. The United States delegation therefore requested a report on the incident from the organization in order to evaluate what future steps the Committee needed to take in its evaluation of the situation. The Committee decided to ask for a report from the organization for consideration at its next session.

113. At its 2003 resumed session, the representative of the United States said that the report and the two letters provided by the organization addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the Head of the Security and Safety Services of the United Nations Office at Geneva, which expressed regret for

the situation and explained that it was a personal decision taken by the individual engaged in the incident, were not satisfactory and requested that the consultative status of the organization be suspended. He stated that the organization had attempted to distance itself from the individuals involved in the situation. The Committee decided that a representative of the organization should appear in person at the 2004 regular session to answer further questions.

114. At its 9th meeting, on 14 May, the Committee resumed consideration of the complaint against the organization. The representative of the United States stated that the organization should be suspended for violating its obligations under paragraph 57 of Council resolution 1996/31 and Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. He was of the view that the Committee was the gatekeeper for participation of NGOs in intergovernmental processes of the United Nations and if such a violation was permitted without the imposition of sanctions it would send a wrong signal to other NGOs. He also reminded the Committee that two NGOs were in violation of the rules at the same session of the Commission on Human Rights and that one of them had already been suspended. In his view, in the interest of consistency, Tupaj Amaru should also be suspended at the 2004 session of the Committee.

115. Member States were in agreement with the representative of the United States that the organization was in violation of its obligations as stipulated in resolution 1996/31. However, a number of delegations were of the view that the organization had acknowledged its mistake and had apologized for the violation without reservation. In addition, it had taken remedial action and its response clearly stated that one person committed the violation and his behaviour did not reflect the position of the organization. They recommended that the Committee follow a more flexible approach towards the organization. The representative of Cuba said that the attitude displayed by this NGO was totally different than the one taken by the other organization suspended for violating the rules at the same session of the Commission. He added that the representative of the NGO could not be present at the meeting because, in the opinion of his delegation, despite the request made some months ago, he had not received a visa from the United States embassy in Switzerland, where the organization was located.

116. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the complaint against the organization to next week with a view to giving Tupaj Amaru another opportunity to send a representative who could authoritatively speak on behalf of the organization.

117. At its 19th meeting, on 21 May, the representative of Cuba introduced a draft resolution by which the Committee would decide to maintain the status of Tupaj Amaru and defer the follow-up to its special report until its 2004 resumed session. He pointed out that in previous similar situations, including ones affecting the Cuban delegation, such issues have been closed following apologies from NGOs.

118. The representative of Tupaj Amaru failed to attend the Committee session. In a letter addressed to the Committee through the Secretariat, he said that he could not obtain a visa for the United States at such short notice and that, furthermore, the organization could not afford to pay for an airplane ticket at this stage.

119. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had made every attempt to facilitate an appointment for the representative of the organization to get a visa, but that a request for a visa had not been submitted, despite the fact

that the organization had had five months to do so. He underlined that the organization had already violated the principles stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31 in 1998, when it had accredited individuals considered terrorists in their countries and had been requested at that time to submit a special report. The representative of the United States said such behaviour could not be tolerated and requested the suspension of consultative status of the organization for one year.

120. The representative of Cuba requested a roll-call vote on this proposal, after saying that by taking action in this way, the Committee would pursue a policy totally different from the practice followed during the past 10 years. He also stated that the explanation given by the United States on the visa issue was not accurate because the representative of the organization had received a communication to be present in the United States Embassy in Bern for visa application just two days previously.

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

121. The delegation of China, supported by Zimbabwe and the Russian Federation, said that, while they recognized that the organization had acted in violation of principles stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee also had to take into account the fact that the organization had apologized for the incident and had immediately taken measures to rectify the situation. They were of the view that the Committee should continue to keep the organization under review and give it another chance to send a representative to New York for the next session of the Committee.

122. The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of Germany, was of the view that the response given by the organization was not convincing. An act of physical aggression had been committed against a delegation, which constituted a serious case of violation that could not go unsanctioned. Romania supported the statement of France and Germany.

123. The representative of Turkey pointed out that the organization's apology did not eliminate the damage created and that the Committee needed to send a strong signal, especially to the NGOs that disrupt the work of the United Nations. He also said that there was no procedural wrongdoing in taking action at this stage, as the organization had been given ample time and opportunity to respond to the questions. He also stated that the presence of a representative of an organization was not a prerequisite for taking action in such cases.

124. The representatives of Colombia and Peru underlined that it was not the first time that the organization had acted in an irresponsible manner in accrediting representatives to the United Nations meetings, as mentioned in previous reports of the Committee (E/1998/72 and Add.1, E/1999/10 and E/1999/109).

125. The proposition was carried by a roll-call vote of 10 to 4 with 5 abstentions.

In favour:

Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Peru, Romania, Turkey, United States of America

Against:

China, Cuba, Russian Federation, Zimbabwe

Abstentions:

India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan

Statements in explanation of vote after the vote

126. The representative of Cuba said that he deeply regretted the adoption of this sanction against the organization, which had indeed carried out a serious action, but which also, since the beginning, had admitted the facts, removed the credentials of the perpetrator of the incident, explained that the act was undertaken without the approval of the organization and had apologized for the incident. He pointed out that in previous similar situations, including ones affecting the Cuban delegation, such issues had been closed following apologies from NGOs. He stated that with this decision a new practice has been set for the future, where recognition of mistakes and apologies will no longer be seen as being sufficient in considering similar cases.

127. The representatives of the Sudan and Pakistan, while underlining the need for NGOs to abide by the rules governing their responsibilities, regretted that the Committee did not show flexibility towards the positive attitude shown by the organization.

B. Complaints submitted by Member States

128. At its 2004 session, the Committee had before it a complaint made by a Member State against the following NGO:

Simon Wiesenthal Center

129. At its 2003 session, the Committee was informed by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that he had lodged a complaint against Simon Wiesenthal Center, an organization in special consultative status with the Council, on the grounds that it had distributed a letter urging Member States to oppose the candidacy of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the Chairmanship of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights. He requested that the Center send a letter of apology, giving the assurances that it would refrain from such action in the future.

130. The Committee had considered the complaint at its 2003 resumed session, but, with no agreement on the matter, it was decided to defer the issue to its 2004 session.

131. At its 28th meeting, on 27 May, the Committee decided to close consideration of the complaint against the organization.

VIII. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations in Informal Regional Network

132. At its 23rd meeting, on 25 May 2004, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, delivered the progress report of the United Nations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) as well as of the General Voluntary Trust Fund created in support of the Network's activities. She

emphasized the tremendous work done in the framework of this project in various regions and countries since its worldwide launch in 2001 in Brazil to: strengthen civil society capacity; enhance its contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at all levels (local, national, regional and international); and promote partnership initiatives, programmes and projects between the United Nations, Governments, civil society, the private sector and the donor community.

133. The United Nations Informal Regional Network, now established in two regions (Africa and Eastern Europe) and several countries (Canada, China, India, Japan, Dubai and Mauritania), will be expanded in 2004/2005, mainly to Colombia, Jamaica and Pakistan, at the national level, and at the regional level to the Arab region, Asia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America, the Caribbean and Western Europe.

134. Preparatory work has been undertaken with interested countries, leading NGOs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices and partner organizations of the Network to strengthen its capacity and outputs. In this regard, several regional preparatory meetings to the high-level and coordination segments of the Economic and Social Council of 2004 were held with the technical assistance and substantive input of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section.

135. Ms. Mezoui also stated that, in cooperation with the World Federation of United Nations Associations and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the United Nations, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section had launched an NGO survey on civil society activities for poverty reduction in the least developed countries. The questionnaire had been part of the preparations for the Council's high-level segment in June 2004. The findings of the survey were disclosed at the preparatory NGO/Civil Society Forum on 18 March 2004. The NGO Forum was broadcast live through a webcast available at http://www.un.org/webcast/2004.html.

136. Ms. Mezoui emphasized the importance of concrete partnerships between the United Nations and civil society, such as the advisory services that the Non-Governmental Organizations Section has provided to NGOs and UNDP at their request, which have permitted the formulation of six technical cooperation pilot projects for Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region. They are ready to be implemented.

137. Another major joint undertaking was the support and advisory services of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to the World Family Organization and the regional coordinator of the Regional Network for Latin America in preparing the organization of the World Family Summit to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in December 2004.

138. All relevant information and documentation is posted in the UN-NGO-IRENE web site at www.unpan.org/ngo.asp and circulated to NGOs and partners through a monthly e-newsletter: "UN-NGO-IRENE Update".

139. In closing, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section thanked the Government of Turkey for its initiative to be the first country to concretely contribute to the General Voluntary Trust Fund and hoped that other countries would follow this example.

140. Ms. Mezoui's presentation was followed by expressions of appreciation by several members of the Committee for the outstanding work accomplished by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section.

IX. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2005 session of the Committee

141. The Committee considered agenda item 10 at its 31st meeting, on 23 June. It had before it the draft provisional agenda for its 2005 session, which was contained in an informal paper.

142. At its 31st meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council the following dates for its sessions in 2005: 5 to 18 January for its 2005 regular session and 9 to 20 May for its resumed 2005 session (see chap. I, draft decision V, subpara. (a)).

143. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 2005 session for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, draft decision V, subpara. (b)).

X. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

144. The Committee held its 2004 session from 10 to 28 May and on 23 June 2004. The Committee held 31 meetings.

B. Attendance

145. The session was attended by the 19 members of the Committee.

146. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, an observer for a non-member State, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

147. The 2004 session of the Committee heard 22 representatives of non-governmental organizations, who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Election of officers

148. At its 1st meeting, on 10 May 2004, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:

Paimaneh Hasteh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Beatriz Londono (Colombia)
Octavian Stamate (Romania)
Hasan Hamid Hasan (Sudan)
Hakan Tekin (Turkey)

149. At the same meeting, the Committee also elected Hakan Tekin (Turkey), by acclamation, to serve as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

150. At its 1st meeting, on 10 May 2004, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its 2004 session (E/C.2/2004/1).

151. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work, as orally revised.

E. Documentation

152. The list of documents before the Committee at its 2004 session is contained in annex II to the present report. Some of the documents could not be issued before the end of the regular session, which necessitated the convening of an additional one-day meeting of the Committee on 23 June to formalize the decisions taken ad referendum owing to the lack of official documentation.

Annex I

List of participants

Members

Cameroon	Martin Belinga Eboutou, Iya Tidjani, Cathérine Mahouve, Naomie Akono
Chile	Christian Rehren, Claudio Rojas, Osvaldo Alvarez, Carla Serazzi
China	XIE Bohua, HUANG He, LI Ziaomei, CHE Ying
Colombia	Jose Nicolás Rivas Zubiría, Betriz Patti Londoño Jaramillo, Pedro Agustín Roa,
Cuba	Orlando Requeijo Gual, Rodney López Clemente, Ricardo Tur Novo, Jorge Luis Bernaza, Mirtha Granda Averhoff, Luis Amorós Núñez, Felipe Mario Medina González
France	Philippe Bertoux, Yvan Chatila, Caroline Belot
Germany	Martin Thümmel, Kirstin Janssen-Holldiek
India	V. K. Nambiar, A. Gopinathan, Mukta D. Tomar
Pakistan	Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, Muhammad Hassan
Peru	Oswaldo de Rivero, Marco Balarezo, Romy Tincopa, Carmen Rosa Aria
Romania	Mihaela Blajan, Octavian Stamate, Nicolae Nastase, Bogdan Toncescu, Corina Mavrodin
Russian Federation	A. Vertogradov, A. A. Nikiforov, V. I. Zheglov
Sudan	Omer Bashir Mohamed Manis, Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, Hassan Hamid Hassan
Turkey	Hakan Tekin, Esin Aksay
United States of America	Sichan Siv, Madelyn Spirnack, Joseph M. Bracken, Marino Ceinos-Cox, Hugh Dugan, Peggy Kerry, Jennifer McCann, Lucy Tamlyn
Zimbabwe	Meshack Kitchen

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Armenia, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela and Viet Nam

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization

Annex II

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/C.2/2004/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/C.2/2004/2 and Add.1-7	4	Quadrennial reports
E/C.2/2004/3	8	Note by the Secretary-General on special reports
E/C.2/2004/CRP.1 and 3	3 (a)	Deferred applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2004/CRP.2		
E/C.2/2004/CRP.4	7	Implementation of Council decision 2001/295
E/C.2/2004/R.2 and Add.1-16	3 (b)	New applications for consultative status

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